70 Collier Street
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City of Barrie

Final

International Relations Committee

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 | **6:00 PM** | **Sir Robert Barrie Room**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
For consideration by the Finance and Responsible Governance Committee on March 25, 2025.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair, M. Sachkiw at 6:01 p.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 12 - Co-Chair – Councillor J. Harris
Co-Chair M. Sachkiw
Deputy Mayor, R. Thomson
LCol G. Johnston
J. Babcock
T. Gardiner
C. Hassey
A. Jones
J. Massie
J. M. Pigeon
B. Sergeant
S. Scully-Pratt

Absent: 3 - W. Hay
L. Palson
K. Watson

STAFF:
Business Development Officer, N. Gavarre
Director of Economic and Creative Development, S. Schlichter
Legislative Coordinator, T. Maynard
Manager of Business Development, L. Davidson.

The International Relations Committee met and reports as follows:

PRESENTATION CONCERNING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development and Gerald Pisarzowski and Tony Romano of Navigate STI provided a presentation concerning the Foreign Direct Investment Strategy.

Ms. Schlichter discussed slides concerning the following topics:

- City's position;
- Setting the stage and support for Foreign Direct Investment initiatives; and
- 2026 and beyond - Invest Barrie.

Mr. Pisarzowski and Mr. Romano discussed slides concerning the following topics -

- Canadas attractiveness between 2022 to 2024 and value proposition for Foreign Direct Investment;
- The shaping of Global Markets redefining investment strategies, supply chains and trade patterns;
- Implications and Priorities for Canadian and Ontario Communities;
- The current Canada and Ontario compelling value propositions that attract Foreign Direct Investment and how Invest Barrie can leverage;
- Comparatives alignment to Foreign Direct Investment Sectors, Markets and Messaging;
- Invest Barrie Go to Market Plan between 2026 to 2029;
- The key challenges in attracting Foreign Direct Investment;
- The Foreign Direct Investment Attraction Strategy;
- The guiding principles of the strategy; and
- Engagement opportunities to attract and champion investment opportunities.

Members of Committee asked questions of the Mr. Pisarzowski, Mr. Romano and Ms. Schlichter and received answers.

COMMITTEE BUDGET UPDATE

Tammie Maynard, Legislative Coordinator provided an update concerning the Committees budget.

Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development provided an update on the expenditures related to hosting the delegation

from Saginaw, Michigan which totalled $2,932.00

BARRIE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE

Ciaran Byles-Ho provided an update on the Barrie International Partnership website, and the Committee members provided their feedback to him. The Committee asked Mr. Byles-Ho questions surrounding statistics available related to the website.

YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM/GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PROGRAM

Shannon Scully-Pratt advised that there was no update to provide concerning the Youth Ambassador Program.

Jamie Babcock advised that there was no update to provide concerning the Global Perspectives Program.

SAGINAW, MICHIGAN UPDATE

Stephannie Schlichter, Director of Economic and Creative Development provided an update on hosting the delegation from Saginaw, Michigan in November 2025. Ms. Schlichter discussed their itinerary which also included engaging with representatives of BIA, Lakehead University, Georgian College, Barrie Fire and Emergency Services and Barrie Transit

Ms. Schlichter discussed an invitation to Saginaw State University in May, 2026

Mark Sachkiw discussed correspondence he received regarding a Pond Hockey Tournament in Saginaw, Michigan in February 2026.

ZWEIBRUCKEN, GERMANY UPDATE

Jean Maurice Pigeon provided an update on the health of Fritz Presl of Zweibrucken, Germany who has been part of the twinning relationship between the two municipalities for over 30 years.

Jamie Babcock provided an update concerning the hockey team exchange with Zweibrucken, Germany in April 2026. Mr. Babcock advised that the Barrie Minor Hockey Association is taking the lead to organize the hockey team exchange, with assistance from members of International Relations Committee.

Mark Sackiw advised that Jean Maurice Pigeon and himself are organizing the itinerary for the adults traveling with the hockey team from Zweibrucken, Germany, and that further information will be provided at the next meeting.

The Committee provided suggestions on fundraising opportunities to support the team exchange.

HARROGATE, UNITED KINGDOM UPDATE

Bill Sergeant provided an update concerning Harrogate, United Kingdom. Mr. Sergeant advised that there is a new representative on the Harrogate Business Improvement District (BID).

ARRAS, FRANCE UPDATE

Mark Sachkiw advised that there is no update, and that he will re-engage with representatives in Arras, France.

Lieutenant Colonel Gary Johnston indicated that Base Borden's population is expected to grow over the next five years.

The Committee suggested using the City's connection with Base Borden, the Cadet program to nurture the relationship with Arras, France.

MURAYAMA. JAPAN UPDATE

There was no report provided concerning Murayama, Japan.

SIR ROBERT BARRIE PROJECT UPDATE

Bill Sergeant discussed the gift received from the Barrie and District Stamp Club featuring stamps of the HMCS Barrie.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

CHAIRMAN